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already well known in our concert-rooms, also made his first appearance on the stage, singing as he always does, with that consciousness of want of experience in vocalization which renders any attempt at dramatic effect an utter impossibility. The Opera was well placed upon the stage, and met with that success which has now become a matter of course.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA.

GOING to the Opera to see a pantomime seems a curious anomaly; but as at this establishment it has now become a melancholy fact, we have but to chronicle the production of the little Operettas which have been successively produced, to play the people into their seats; whilst the real attractions, Harlequin, Columbine, Clown, and Pantaloon, with the one-legged dancer (who has created as much effect with his single leg as Paganini did with his single string) are preparing their antics to make the fortune of the "English Opera Company, Limited." Mr. Frank Mori's Operetta, *The River Sprite*, the libretto by Mr. George Linley, is the last, and we think the best, of the small works to which the management is now compelled to devote itself. The music is light and graceful throughout; and one great merit is that the composer has in no place attempted too much. The choruses are remarkably well written; and one or two of the songs are, we think, likely to become popular. A quintet, too, "What rash assurance," shows beyond doubt that Mr. Mori can write something beyond songs and choruses; and we may also instance as a specimen of good comic music, the Manager's song, "What joyful sensation." Madame Florence Lancia sang with much effect throughout the opera, and is likely to prove a most valuable acquisition to the operatic stage. The rest of the characters were sustained by Mr. C. Lyall, Mr. Perren, Mr. Dussek, Mr. Aynsley Cook, and Mr. Weiss, who all exerted themselves to the utmost to ensure the success of the work. Mr. Mori was called for at the fall of the curtain, and received the applause which we believe he richly merited. We are glad to find that the next novelty is to be an English version of M. Gounod's opera *Le Médecin malgré lui*.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

DURING the past month *Elijah*, and *Israel in Egypt* have been performed in the admirable style to which the Society has now accustomed the frequenters of these concerts. A word of praise must be given to Miss Whytock, who in *Elijah* displayed a fine *contralto* voice, and a feeling for sacred music which, with careful training, may enable her to take rank as a good singer of Oratorio music.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE classical character of the programmes at the concerts, under the direction of Mr. Manns, has been steadily preserved at this establishment; and the "Winter Concerts," which commenced on Saturday, the 4th ult., seem likely to attract even more than those already given here. Amongst the orchestral works at the first concert were Beethoven's Symphony in B flat, and Mendelssohn's "Melusine" overture. Madame Arabella Goddard has also been playing a *Fantasia*, by Mr. Lindsay Sloper, on airs from "Mirella," with a dash and brilliancy which fully maintained her character as the best *Fantasia* player of the day.

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.

THE first concert of the present season took place at St. James's Hall on the 9th ult. The programme contained some of the best specimens of the Madrigals and Part-songs especially adapted to display the refinement of Mr. Leslie's choir; and on this occasion they were executed with even more than the usual amount of delicacy

and precision. Two of Mr. Leslie's Part-songs, "My soul to God, my heart to thee," and "Awake, awake, the flowers unfold," were performed for the first time, and created a marked impression upon the audience, the second one being enthusiastically *encored*. The same compliment was also paid to Pinsuti's Part-song, "The sea hath its pearls" (which is an exceedingly effective composition), and also to Spofforth's ever welcome Glee, "Hail, smiling morn," and Henry Smart's melodious Part-song, "Lady, rise." The solo vocalists were Miss Whytock, who is steadily advancing in public favour, and Mr. Cummings. Herr Ludwig Straus delighted everybody by his fine violin playing, which afforded an agreeable relief to the vocal music.

VOCAL ASSOCIATION.

THE second concert of the ninth season of this Society was given at the Music Hall, Store Street, on the 1st ult., under the direction of Mr. Benedict. The programme included the conductor's graceful *Cantata*, "Undine," which was exceedingly well given; the principal vocalists being Miss Emma Jenkins, Miss Palmer Lisle, Mr. B. Friend, and Mr. Lansmere. The address from the Society, printed in the books of words circulated in the room, sufficiently shows that, with proper management, much good might be effected by this Association; and we regret therefore to see it leading rather a wandering life amongst the concert-rooms of the metropolis; and still more to find that many of its members have not been loyal to the cause. Under the able guidance of Mr. Benedict, who we hear gives his gratuitous services to the Society, we trust however that it may yet take a permanent stand amongst the musical institutions of London; and aid in introducing to the public many untried composers and vocalists who might find it difficult to obtain a hearing through any Society established solely as a speculation.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

MADAME ARABELLA GODDARD has been the pianist at two of these concerts during the month, the principal feature being her performance of Dussek's "Invocation" Sonata, which was listened to with a breathless attention speaking volumes for the taste of a popular audience. Hummel's Septet was also finely played at the same concert, with Madame Goddard at the pianoforte; and on the following Monday, Mendelssohn's Quartet in F minor again gave her an opportunity of displaying those unflinching executive powers which, whatever may be the opinion of her reading of classical works, must always be sure of producing their effect. Herr Ludwig Straus's violin playing has been on every occasion thoroughly artistic, both in conception and execution; and he is now deservedly accepted as one of the best violinists that has yet appeared at these concerts. On the following Monday Mr. Charles Hallé was the pianist.

MUSICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

AT the trial of new Orchestral Compositions, which took place at the Hanover Square Rooms on the 15th ult., a Symphony by Mr. Gadsby was much admired. Many other compositions showed unmistakable signs of talent, and we have great hopes that this Society may be the means of bringing forward some names still unknown to fame.

THE programme of arrangements for the Triennial Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace contains many very judicious alterations to ensure the comfort of the audience although, in all essential points the Festival of former years will remain unchanged. The performance on each day will commence at three, instead of one, o'clock; and on the Rehearsal day at one, instead of ten, o'clock, thus enabling persons at a distance to reach the Palace